

**Dated: May 24, 2004**

**Signature**

(Lawrence E. Russ)

## Corres. and Mail

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**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Group Art Unit: 2614

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-166

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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## Technology Center 2600

: Group Art Unit: 2614

: Examiner: B. P. Yenke

Shirahama et al.

Application No.: 09/855,345

Filed: May 15, 2001

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,  
METHOD, AND RECORDING MEDIUM FOR  
CONTROLLING IMAGE QUALITY

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 25, 2004, finally rejecting claims 1-23, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: